

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to an Office Action mailed on May 6, 2003, please consider the above-amendments and the following remarks. In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 for an alleged lack of clarity of the term "another reeling device."

Claims 1, 12, 14 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a) as being anticipated by, or obvious in view of, U.S. Patent No. 5,732,901 to McNeil et al. ("McNeil").

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, the term "another reeling device" in Claims 1 and 14 refers non-specifically to the reeling devices of the first and second station wherein one reeling device first engages the web with the core, moves the core away from the web support after winding the web thereon and then "another reeling device" engages the web. Therefore, the term "another reeling device" is meant to convey that the reeling devices can alternate in a continuous cycle. For instance, if each station were to have only one reeling device, and the "at least one" reeling device were arbitrarily chosen to be the reeling device of the first reeling station, then "another reeling device" would be the reeling device of the second reeling station. It is submitted there is no ambiguity in this language.

McNeil discloses a turret winding apparatus **100** that cooperates with a web winding apparatus **90** to wind a web **50** onto a plurality of cores **302**, as shown in Figure 1. Included in the turret winding apparatus is a rotatably driven turret assembly **200** that includes a plurality of mandrels **300** that are rotated about a central axis **202** and support the cores during winding of the web onto the cores, as shown in Figure 3A of McNeil.

Each of the mandrels are themselves rotatably driven by a mandrel drive apparatus **330** which includes a pair of mandrel drive motors **332A**, **332B**, respectively driving a pair of drive belts **334A**, **334B** looped over idler pulleys **336A**, **336B**, as shown in Figure 3B of McNeil. At one end, each mandrel includes a toothed drive pulley **338** and a smooth idler pulley **339**. Notably, each drive pulley overlies a different one of the drive belts than the drive pulley of the preceding and following mandrels. Therefore, adjacent ones of the mandrels are driven by different motors, allowing them to be driven at the different speeds required for full and empty cores, as described at column 7, lines 6-9.

A path of the mandrels is broken up into segments, including a core loading segment **322**, a web winding segment **324** and a core stripping segment **326**. Positioned upstream of the turret winder at the web winding segment is a rewinder assembly **60**, as shown in Figure 3 and as described at column 5, lines 59-65 of McNeil. The rewinder includes feed rolls **52** for carrying the web **50** to a perforator roll **54**, a web splitter bed roll **56**, a chopper roll **58** and bedroll **59**.

During winding, the core on one of mandrels **300B** is loaded with paper as it is moved along the closed mandrel path in the downward direction while the other one of the mandrels **300A** is accelerated by its drive belt and moved along the path into position adjacent the bed roll **56**. The bed roll "provides transfer of the free end of the web **50** to the next core **302** advancing along the closed mandrel path **320**," at column 6, lines 8-10. When winding of the web on a core is complete, the chopper roll and bedroll sever the web. The bedroll provides transfer of the free end of the web to the next core **302** advancing along the mandrel path.

Independent Claim 1 of the present application describes "a web support that supports said traveling web along a path of travel that extends from a first vertical level to a second vertical level spaced vertically from the first vertical level." Independent Claim 14 describes a web support that supports the web along a path of travel that extends from a first vertical level to a second vertical level, spaced from the first vertical level. Independent Claim 43 describes advancing web portions, supported on a web support, along a path of travel that passes adjacent to a first reeling station at first vertical level and a second reeling station at a second vertical level vertically spaced from the first vertical level.

Although McNeil describes the movement of multiple mandrels in succession into a position against the bedroll **59** to receive a web dispensed therefrom, McNeil fails to teach or suggest a web support that extends between two (or more) spaced reeling stations. McNeil teaches that once winding of the web onto the core of one mandrel has been completed, the next mandrel is rotated about the mandrel axis **314** into a position adjacent the bedroll **59**. Therefore, each of the mandrels of McNeil successively engage the web at the same location to initiate winding of the web. In other words, each of the mandrels engages the web at the

same reeling station, i.e., the bedroll 59. The bedroll cannot carry the web to the next mandrel because it does not extend between any of the mandrels.

In contrast, in the present invention as described in independent Claims 1, 14 and 43, once winding is completed at one upstream station, the web is advanced along the web support to the second, downstream station which is spaced from the upstream station. Therefore, the rejection of independent Claims 1, 14 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a) over McNeil has been overcome and Claims 1, 14 and 43 are allowable. Claim 12 depends from, and further patentably distinguishes Claim 1, and should therefore also be allowable.

In the Office Action, it was acknowledged that Claims 1 and 14 are generic, at page 3, paragraph 4. Claims 1 and 14 have not been amended and therefore should still be generic. Because Claims 1 and 14 are allowable over McNeil, Claims 2-11, 13 and 15-33 also are allowable over McNeil and the remaining cited references, because they depend from, and further patentably distinguish independent, generic Claims 1 and 14.

New Claims 47 and 48 have been added describing a web support extending between two spaced positions and reeling stations having reeling devices each capable of engaging the web at a respective one of the spaced positions. As above, McNeil and the cited art fail to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, engagement of a web by reeling devices at spaced positions on a web support and Claims 47 and 48 should therefore be allowable.

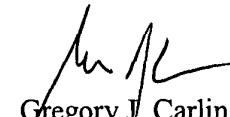
In view of the remarks and amendments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. The Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee

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required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.


Respectfully submitted,


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